

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 7-12 are now pending.

Non-elected claims 1-4, which were withdrawn from further consideration, have been canceled from this application to advance prosecution. The cancellation of these claims is without prejudice to pursuing the subject matter of those claims and any other unclaimed subject matter in divisional application(s).

The disclosure was objected to because of a noted informality. Page 11 has been revised above to correct the typographical errors noted by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The specification was objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The specification has been revised at page 10 to provide clear antecedent basis for the subject matter of claim 8. No new matter has been added by this amendment as the added description is fully supported by original Figures 1A and 1B and by original claim 8. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is requested.

Original claims 5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to advance prosecution, the limitations of dependent claim 6 have been incorporated into an amended claim 5 and the subject matter of original claim 7 has been presented in independent form as new independent claim 10. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection based on Sato has been mooted.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. As noted above, claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 6. Claim 6 has been canceled

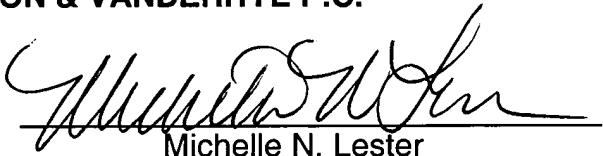
SHIMADA, H.
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accordingly. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 7-9 should now be allowed. As also noted above, the subject matter of original allowable claim 7 has been presented in independent form as new independent claim 10. New dependent claims 11 and 12 are similar to original claims 8 and 9 but depend from new independent claim 10. It is respectfully submitted that claims 10-12 are allowable at least for the same reasons as original claim 7.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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